



California Department of Veterans Affairs

News For Veterans

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

May is National Military Appreciation Month. The month includes Military Spouse Appreciation Day (12th), Armed Forces Day (20th), and Memorial Day (29th).

This important month honors, remembers and recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and their families.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM H. WADE II

An Open Letter to the Families of the California National Guard

On May 12th, the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, along with all members of the Armed Forces, will celebrate National Military Spouse Day. In my home and heart, every day is Military Spouse Day. As my wife Leslie and I partner through service in the California National Guard, I see challenges and frustrations, along with the rewards and pride.

Our Guard continues to succeed in our community, state, and federal missions; our husbands and wives consistently “step up to the plate” in their own service. As Leslie and I talk to spouses, we find a sense of belonging and honor that comes from their contributions to the Global War on Terrorism. It doesn’t matter if their spouses are thousands of miles from home or working at bases or armories supporting those who are deployed – they understand that their involvement is essential to mission success.

To all California National Guard members, I ask you to do two things. First, thank your spouses for their support of your involvement in our National Guard. Second, please continue to ensure that your loved ones know of your duties and missions, as well as the benefits and entitlements that you, as members of the National Guard, bring to your families. Also, please encourage your loved ones to participate in your units’ Family Readiness programs, where they can stay in communication with other families and keep up-to-date on important information.

To all Guard member spouses, I believe that our families are the strongest units in the California National Guard. Leslie and I pay tribute to you and the love and support that you give to your troops. We ask that you continue to serve by being active members of your units’ Family Readiness Groups. Also, please know that if your Soldiers and Airmen are currently deployed, my staff and I are committed to the safe return of your

loved ones.

On May 12, 2006, we pay tribute to all Military Spouses, but know that you are honored every day of the year as well.

Sincerely,

William H. Wade II
Major General
The Adjutant General

Additional information on National Military Appreciation Month May 2006 can be found at www.nmam.org.

Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov.